

AC (1923) CLIFTON DARTMOUTH  
HARDNESS



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## Annual Report

OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

## Borough of

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DARTMOUTH -

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1923.

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*To His Worship the Mayor and the Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

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GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to present to you my 23rd Annual Report upon the Health of the Inhabitants, and the Sanitary condition of the Borough.

POPULATION.—The figures given to me by the Registrar-General on which to base my statistical returns are:—for the Birth Rate 7,303 and for the Civilian Death Rate 6,570. Census 1921—7201.

The Area of the Borough is 1925 acres.

The density of the Population per acre is 3.7.

The number of Inhabited Houses is 1,162.

The number of persons per house averages 6.4.

The rateable value is £33,662.

The sum represented by a Penny rate is £136.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS 
$$\begin{cases} \text{Legitimate } 117; \text{ Males } 60, \text{ Females } 57; \text{ Birth-rate} \\ \quad = 16.0 \text{ per 1,000.} \\ \text{Illegitimate } 4; \text{ Males } 3; \text{ Females } 1; \text{ Birth-rate} \\ \quad = 0.54 \end{cases}$$

DEATHS.—Total = 81; Males = 43; Females = 38; Death-rate = 12.3 per 1,000.

Natural Increase, that is the number of Births in excess of Deaths = 36.

The Zymotic death rate is 0.15 per 1,000, and due to one case of Enteric Fever.

The record of the causes of deaths in the district are as follows :—

Causes of Death.		Male.	Female.
All causes		43	38
1. Enteric Fever	...	1	0
2. Tuberculosis of respiratory system		3	3
3. Cancer, malignant disease		5	5
4. Rheumatic Fever		1	0
5. Diabetes		1	0
6. Cerebral Hæmorrhage		3	1
7. Heart disease	...	3	9
8. Arterio sclerosis	...	3	5
9. Bronchitis	...	3	2
10. Pneumonia, all forms	...	4	1
11. Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum		1	0
12. Appendicitis and Typhlitis		3	0
13. Cirrhosis of liver	...	0	1
14. Acute and Chronic Nephritis		1	0
15. Congenital Debility, Malformation, Premature Birth		3	2
16. Death from Violence	...	1	0
17. Other defined diseases	...	6	9
18. Causes ill-defined or unknown		1	0

No. of Inquests held during the year = 4.

The number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth :—

From Sepsis = 0 : from other cause = 0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age = 10. Males = 5, Females = 5, giving an Infantile death-rate 42.7 per 1,000 births.

Deaths from Measles at all ages=0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough at all ages=0.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)=0.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

10 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, during the year, viz. :

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Cases admitted		No. of Deaths.
		to Hospital.	to Hospital.	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	0
Lobar Pneumonia	4	0	0	1
Erysipelas	3	0	0	0
Malaria	1	1	1	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	1

The case of Scarlet Fever was brought into the Borough from a neighbouring town with the disease developed.

The case of Enteric Fever was also imported, arriving from Alexandra, with the disease developed. Both cases were removed to the Paignton Infectious Hospital.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
25	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
65	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	5	1	0	2	3	1	0

The deaths registered from this disease are all those of cases which have been notified during this and previous years. The efficiency of notification of this disease is good.

The ratio of deaths to notifications is equal, 6 to 6.

No case of Ophthalmia-Neonatorum has been notified during the year.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

**PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.**—1 District Nurse, provided by a Local Committee and supported by voluntary contributions, to which the Council subscribes. She visits and attends the sick in their own homes when sent for. There are also Trained Nurses resident in the Town.

**MIDWIVES.**—There is one qualified Midwife and one registered Midwife in the Borough.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**—During the year 46 mothers have attended, 36 of whom were attending last year, so that 10 were new attendants. These have attended the Centre 742 times, making an average of 16 visits each.

22 children (9 males, and 13 females) have been brought for examination, weighing and instruction. 80 examinations have been made, giving an average of 3.7 examinations for each child.

**HOSPITALS.**—There is a Cottage Hospital, containing 12 beds which is supported by voluntary contributions. Patients are also sent to the Hospitals at Exeter, Plymouth and Torquay for general diseases, operations and accidents. For Infectious cases there is a small Isolation Hospital maintained by the Council, situated about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of the Town. Cases of Infection are also sent, by arrangement, to the Infectious Hospital at Paignton.

**AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—There is no provision of Ambulance for accidents and non-infectious cases in the Borough, but an Ambulance is easily got from Torquay or Plymouth if required. There is a four-wheel covered horse-drawn ambulance in which Infectious cases are taken to the Infectious Hospital.

**DISINFECTION.**—There is a Steam Disinfector, which has been in frequent use during the year.

**VACCINATION RETURNS.**—

Successfully vaccinated	...	..	67
Insusceptible to vaccination	...	..	0
Conscientious objectors	...	..	32
Died unvaccinated	...	..	7
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	..	3
Removed out of the district	...	..	1
Not yet dealt with	...	..	4

### LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations, etc., are made at the County Laboratory, at Exeter.

Diphtheria antitoxin and other vaccines are provided in the case of poor patients by the Council.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations in in the District with date of adoption.

Nuisances	...	...	31/7/1897
Slaughter Houses	...	28/11/1881	
New Streets and Buildings	...	13/7/1897	
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops		13/21/1899	
The P.H. (Amnd.) Act, 1890, parts 1, 2, 3, 5 ...	...		

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BAKE-HOUSES.—There are 12 bakehouses in the town; during the year 34 visits have been paid to them. 3 bakehouses were found defective. These defects have been remedied. They have all been cleaned and whitewashed in accordance with the regulations.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

MILKSHOPS, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 35 of these establishments in the Borough. 107 inspections have been made during the year, and 9 found to be defective, which defects were remedied. The methods of draining the cowsheds are most crude and primitive; an endeavour has been made to improve them, but they are as a whole very ill-conditioned buildings.

The Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds Regulations are in force in the Borough.

DRAINAGE.—This is very satisfactory throughout the town. 5 new drains have been laid during the year, and 27 have been repaired. There are two or three houses built within the last few years at Swannaton which were drained into cesspits, a sewer has been laid and they are now connected up.

NUISANCES.—68 premises have been inspected with regard to Nuisances, and 29 intimation Notices and 4 Statutory Notices have been sent, and the number of nuisances abated are 87.

Bye-laws with regard to nuisances are in force.

There are no offensive trades in the Borough.

The Public Lavatories are all under the control of the Council, regularly inspected (as is the Great Western Railway Lavatory) and kept up by the Council. There have been no Public Closets or Urinals built during the year as the town is well supplied with these conveniences and it is not considered that any more are wanted, 19 cases of insufficient water closet accommodation have been discovered and 10 have been remedied

The following is a statement of work accomplished :

Additional w.c.'s constructed	...	5
New w.c. Basins and Traps	...	18
Flushing Apparatus and Fittings	...	17
Houses provided with New Drain	...	2
Houses with Drains Partially Re-laid	...	11
Inspection Chambers constructed	...	17
Soil and Ventilation Pipes fixed or repaired	...	13
Number of Gullies provided	...	27
Roofs repaired ...	...	19
Choked Drains cleared	...	17
Premises with dilapidated floors, walls, etc.		
repaired	...	23
Miscellaneous	...	22

The contents of the Town Sewers is discharged directly into the River Dart without any previous treatment. This has always been done and no nuisance, such as fouling the foreshore has ever been observed or complained of, owing, no doubt to the strong tides which flow down the River.

**SCAVENGING REFUSE DISPOSAL.**—A small 4-cell Incinerator has been erected, in which the whole of the House Refuse is destroyed, and about 75 tons per week are dealt with. I still consider that the custom of placing the House Refuse in all kinds of open receptacles on the path outside the houses to await the arrival of the scavenger's cart, is both dirty and insanitary ; the covered receptacle should be insisted upon in every case, but no effort seems to be taken to compel this.

**SCHOOLS.**—There are four Public Schools in the town. Three belonging to the Devon County Educational Department, and 1 to the Roman Catholic Denomination. These are in every way satisfactory and up to date. They have all been inspected during the year.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—There are 3 Public and 2 Private Slaughter Houses in the Borough. 61 visits have been paid during the year and the chief defect found was, want of cleanliness: the water question is still a trouble, the supply being contaminated by the adjoining cesspit and the windmill which pumps the water always being out of action chiefly because it will not stand the force of the winds. I would strongly suggest the cesspit being removed from its present position to another, where it will not contaminate the water shed, and that the windmill be strengthened to withstand the force of the winds, as slaughter houses without adequate supply of water are not ideal from a food point of view.

**WATER.**—The augmentation of the supply last year has been such that there has been no shortage of water this year, and the amount of pumping has been considerably decreased owing to the increased supply by gravitation. The bulk of the water supplied to the town, and also to the Royal Naval College is chlorinated before delivery. A Paterson's Chlorinating Plant is installed, the strength used being  $\frac{1}{2}$  per million. The result of Analysis shews that the water is Pure and satisfactory.

The Royal Naval College authorities have been making constant examinations of the water supplied to the College, which is the same as supplied to the town, and keeping me informed of the results, which have been very satisfactory. The R.N. College has taken 4,620,000 gallons during the year, and the amount of water supplied to the town is about 25 gallons per head.

**FOOD.**—The requirements of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act have been carried out by the Police. 13 samples have been taken and sent to the County Analyst, viz:

New Milk	...	7
Whiskey	...	1
Tapioca	...	1
Margarine	...	1
Cocoa	...	1
Ground Rice	...	1
Sweets	...	1

All of which were found to be genuine by County Analyst. No prosecutions have been made. 1 carcase of Beef and 80lbs. of Beef and 14lbs. of Mutton were surrendered and destroyed.

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**—The Staff consists of

- (1) Medical Officer of Health: J. H. Harris, M.D., D.P.H.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector: Mr. Alfred J. Willett, M.R.S.I.  
Mr. Willett also acts as Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.

**HOUSING.**—There is great want of Housing Accommodation, every available house, tenement and lodging is occupied, and there is no doubt that certain of these tenements and lodging-houses are full to their uttermost, as there is no building going on to meet the demand. All classes of houses are required, and 6 new houses have been built during the year. 8 sets of plans have been submitted to and passed by the Council. A large number of Inspections have been made, and many of the old houses have been improved and rendered more fit for habitation, but they are far from meeting the requirements of modern Sanitary conditions. 38 have been repaired and whitewashed, but owing to the scarcity of houses and the exigency of the times closing orders have not been made.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total	...	...	...	6
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	Nil	

There are no common lodging-houses in the Borough.

### I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

#### Inspection :

1. Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	68
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	29
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	0
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	15

### II. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	38
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### III. Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A.—Proceedings under sect. 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	5
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:		
	(a) By Owners	...	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
3	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	0

#### B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	33
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:		
	(a) By Owners	...	33
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

#### C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

1	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	0
2	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	0
3	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	0
4	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...	...	0
5	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders...	...	0

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is embodied in this Report, as otherwise they overlap each other.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**JOHN H. HARRIS, M.D., D.P.H.,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1924.





